

DRIVING

- You break the law if you drive a car that does not have insurance. Consequences are serious. If you drive someone else's car, make sure it is insured.

- You can drive with a valid license from your country if you are over age 16, in Colorado only for school, and pay out-of-state tuition. But, you may need a Colorado driver's license to buy car insurance from some companies.

- Take driving lessons! Our rules are much stricter than in many other countries.

- Penalties for violations can be very serious:

→ DUI (driving under the influence of alcohol) may get you deported, costs lots of money and will likely involve arrest and jail time. Very little alcohol can get you charged with DUI.

→ Speeding, reckless driving and careless driving have serious consequences, including possible loss of license.

If you get a ticket from the police, you should come promptly to Student Legal Services to prepare for court. If you don't show up at the right court at the right time you will be arrested.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

BUYING A USED CAR

- Talk to your campus lawyers before you hand over any money to the seller!

- You must be wary of any dealer or a private seller.

- Get the car inspected by a good mechanic before you do the deal. Don't rely on a dealer's inspection.

- Do not pay any money until you make sure the ownership paper (title) is proper—ask your campus lawyers for advice.

ALCOHOL

- Drinking or possessing alcohol is illegal if you are under age 21.

- Even if you are over 21, it is illegal to carry an open container.

- It's a crime to serve alcohol to minors (under age 18) or allow minors to drink at your home.

- If a drunk minor leaves your home and injures someone or damages property, you may have to pay for this.

FIGHTING

→ Our laws against fighting are extremely strict. You can even be charged for throwing an object against the wall, for yelling, and for standing in the doorway blocking the other person from leaving. It gets worse if the other person is your spouse or intimate partner. The consequences can include arrest, jail and deportation.

POLICE

- If you are in danger, you can call police for help (but be aware that if you are part of a fight or involved in criminal wrongdoing, you can get charged, too)

- If contacted and asked by police to identify yourself, you must identify yourself accurately and show your ID.

- Never use a fake ID or identify yourself falsely. These are serious crimes.

- You are not required in this country to admit your actions or admit

committing a crime. You always have the right to remain silent. You should never lie to police. Instead, politely remain silent if you don't want to answer questions (except you must identify yourself accurately).

- Your answers may be used against you and often it is the person's answers that give the police enough evidence to charge you.

RENTING

- See Student Legal Services before you sign anything!
- Read and understand each word before you sign. Colorado law and the courts will enforce the contract, even if you think the contract language is not fair.
- Be careful of "joint liability" leases, which make you liable for your roommate's mistakes, too.
- Never sign on to a lease that is already in progress with other tenants until you have talked to Student Legal Services attorneys. You may become liable for damages done before you joined.
- Never pay rent with cash; you need proof you paid.
- Inspect the property in great detail and don't sign a lease unless the property is safe or you get the landlord to write all promised repairs on the lease.
- Take pictures and make a check-in sheet at move-in. Keep a copy and give the landlord one. Do the same thing after you have cleaned, before you move out. You will have to be able to prove that you returned the property in good condition to get your security deposit back.

GUNS

Visa holders ("non-resident aliens") are not allowed to possess guns.

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Your Campus Lawyers

Confidential & Free!

Immigration consultations available on campus one day per month with immigration attorney specialists.

(970) 491-1482 sls.colostate.edu
284 Lory Student Center

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

See your campus lawyers for help with legal issues! Come early before the problem grows larger. Come before you buy a car, before you sign a lease, and before you talk to police if you are under suspicion.

Student Legal Services

at the Lory Student Center

*100% Confidential,
Non-Judgmental, & Free*

Colorado State University

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